

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION FORM  
Insert school name, address here

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

Your child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

have been:

\_\_\_ **Approved for free meals because**

- ☐ your household income was within the eligibility limits
- ☐ the child listed above is a foster child
- ☐ one or more of your children are enrolled in FIP or Food Assistance
- ☐ your child(ren) are homeless, migrant or runaway
- ☐ your child is enrolled in Head Start

\_\_\_ **Approved for free meals because one or more of your children were directly certified automatically.**

Federal law allows us to receive information about your family's participation in FIP or Food Assistance programs to determine free meal eligibility. No other information about your family has been shared. **Your child(ren) listed will get free meal benefits automatically.** **There is nothing you need to do.** If you do **NOT** want your child(ren) to receive these automatic free meal benefits, you must tell us. Fill in the information on the other side of this form and return this form to the school within ten calendar days of the date on this letter if you DO NOT want your children to get free meals.

\_\_\_ **Approved for reduced price meals**

\_\_\_ **Denied because**

- ☐ your income over the allowable amount
- ☐ your application was incomplete because \_\_\_\_\_.

If you do not agree with the decision, you may discuss it with the school. If you wish to review the decision further, you have a right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the following official:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

You may reapply for benefits at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a decrease in household income, become unemployed, or have an increase in family size, fill out an application at that time.

**You may be eligible for Food Assistance.** Food Assistance, also known as Food Stamps, is a program to help buy food for good health. If you want information or you want to apply, call 1-877-347-5678. Go to [www.yesfood.iowa.gov](http://www.yesfood.iowa.gov) to apply online.

**If you have questions or if one or more of your children are not listed on the front, CONTACT YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL.**

**REFUSAL OF FREE MEAL BENEFITS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION**

**I DO NOT** want my child(ren) to receive free meal benefits.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT FILL IN THIS BOX IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO RECEIVE FREE MEALS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION.**

***hawk-i* /Medicaid Information Form**

Read this information. Sign below and return it to the school **if you decide you do not want** your name released to ***hawk-i*** or Medicaid.

If your children do not have health insurance, you will be interested to know that many families getting free and reduced price meals can also get free or low-cost health insurance for their children.

The law now requires schools to share your free and reduced price meal eligibility information with Medicaid and ***hawk-i***, the State's medical insurance program for children. Specifically, we will give them your child's name and your name and address. Medicaid and ***hawk-i*** can only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance and then to contact you. They are not allowed to use the information from your free and reduced meal application for any other purpose.

You are not required to allow us to share information from your children's free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or the ***hawk-i*** program. It will not affect your children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals. If you do **NOT** want your information shared with Medicaid or ***hawk-i***, you must tell us by completing the information below and returning this letter to the school district within 10 days of the date on the letter of notification of free meal benefits. If you want further information, you may call ***hawk-i*** at 1-800-257-8563.

**I DO NOT** want school/home sponsor/child care or Head Start center officials to share information from my free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or ***hawk-i***. Also, if you are already receiving Medicaid or ***hawk-i***, please sign below. This will avoid another contact.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Child Care/Head Start Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Child Care/Head Start Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Child Care/Head Start Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.** "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write *USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*, or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."